

Dear Principal Lacey-Berman,

On behalf of the Office of the Arts and Special Projects, I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the generosity of Mr. Gilbert Wiest, an entrepreneur and supporter of music education in New York City's public schools, the Brooklyn High School of the Arts will receive an August Forster baby grand piano for use in its choral music program!

This beautiful piano was chosen by the late, great jazz pianist Ellis Larkins for his regular engagements at the Carnegie Café, a legendary NY jazz club. In fact, New York Magazine once mentioned this piano in an article about Mr. Larkins' appearance at the club. It was also played by Ellis Marsalis, Wynton's father. In addition to the Carnegie Café, Mr. Wiest also owned Michael's Pub and Gregory's, two jazz mainstays in New York.

Mr. Wiest now lives in San Diego, California and the August Forster has been carefully and lovingly kept in a professional piano storage facility all the while. I inspected and played the piano at Pro Pianos, 637 West 27th street in Manhattan. It has a gorgeous sound and a lovely frame. It's a 5'8" grand and its approximate value is \$50,000. Mr. Wiest even had it tuned in anticipation of my visit, so you needn't be concerned with tuning. If you will agree to accept the piano, all you need do is arrange to have it picked up and delivered to BHSA.

Mr. Wiest's only request is that he receives a letter in which his donation is acknowledged, the piano's \$50,000 value is cited, and the DOE's tax id is provided. We were advised that this official letter must come from your ISC, so, upon receipt of your reply, I will forward Mr. Wiest's mailing address and the contact information at Pro Piano.

Congratulations to the BHSA campus on receipt of this gift. I am certain that it will be a wonderful benefit for BHSA's talented students!

Best regards,

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